

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 28, after "~~of~~", first occurrence, delete "~~other the~~"

Page 14, line 27, delete "~~oppsed~~" and insert therefor ... opposed ...

Page 16, line 7, delete "~~the n~~" and insert therefor ... ~~then~~ ...

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 21, 2000 pursuant to which it has been noted that formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed; the abstract has been objected to; informalities in the disclosure have been objected to; claims 4, 5, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph; and, the claims stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a).

Per this amendment, a new abstract has been provided consisting of a single paragraph and the informalities in the specification have been corrected following the helpful suggestions of the Examiner, the courtesies of which are gratefully acknowledged.

It is recognized that the drawing is informal and that a formal drawing will be submitted upon the finding of allowable subject matter.

With regard to the 35 USC 112 rejection, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to page 9, line 10 through page 10, line 12 of the specification. The language on page 9, lines 10-21 is substantially the same as that used in claims 4 and 15. The illustrative articles that fall within the page 9, lines 10-21 description are provided on page 9 at lines 19-21. Similarly, the language on page 9, line 23 through page 10, line 12 is substantially the same as that used in claims 5 and 16 and the illustrative articles that fall within this description are provided on page 10 at lines 9-12.

If one visualizes the cross section of an airplane wing, for example, one would note that the upper surface of the wing has a convex, arcuate, upper surface contour and a substantially flat lower surface contour and that tapers from a thickness at its leading edge to a lesser thickness at its trailing edge. With this visualization in mind, one can then visualize the description on page 9, lines 10-17 and that recited in claims 4 and 15.

Again using the cross section of an airplane wing as an illustration, one can visualize a convex, arcuate upper surface contour and a convex, arcuate lower surface contour with the leading edge of the wing having a greater thickness than its trailing edge; i.e., tapering from its leading edge to its trailing edge. This visualization conforms to the description given on page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 8 and that recited in claims 5 and 16.

US Patent 5,119,535 to Gnagy, et.al. has been relied upon to support the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3-8 and 14-16.

This rejection is respectfully traversed and its reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

The patent to Gnagy, et.al. discloses a honeycomb structure that is heated in a fluidized bed; subjecting the heated honeycomb structure to pressure to form it into a desired shape; and, removing the honeycomb structure from the fluidized bed and allowing it to cool (Col. 8, ll. 55-67). The materials that can be used for the fluidized beds are sand, mixtures of alloys and eutectic salts (Col. 9, ll. 3-17). The temperatures used in the fluidized bed to heat the honeycomb structure rang from 400 to 600 degrees F (Col. 10, ll. 28-36) and the formed shapes obtained are essentially long or short radii of curvature (Col. 12, ll. 2-8 and Figs. 15 and 16). To achieve these formed shapes, relatively complex molding apparatus are employed such as those shown in Figs. 5-8, described at Col. 9, l. 35 – Col. 10, l. 27; Figs. 17-19, described at Col. 12, l. 44 – Col. 13, l. 19; and Fig. 34, described at Col. 16, ll. 7-24.

By contrast, in applicant's claimed method, the honeycomb core is deformed at ambient temperature which is significantly less than that used in Gnagy, et.al. method. Further, applicant's claimed method does not use a fluidized bed nor complex apparatus. In addition, the contoured, complex shapes achieved by applicant's claimed method which include convex or concave or both convex and concave surfaces can not be equated with the long or short radii forms of the Gnagy, et.al. formed honeycomb structure.

In support of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 9-12, US Patent 5,514,017 to Chimiak has been combined with the patent to Gnagy, et.al.

This rejection is also respectfully traversed and its reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

The patent to Chimiak discloses a coated, honeycomb core aquatic surfboard having an elliptical shape and provided with a fin on its underside.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in the Chimiak patent of honeycomb cores having complex, contoured shapes nor of a method of making them all as recited in applicant's claims. Furthermore, applicant's claimed articles are not limited to aquatic surf boards, but include articles having complex contoured shapes where either one or both surfaces can be convex, concave or combinations thereof. Consequently, it is submitted that the Chimiak does not cure any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Gnagy, et.al. patent.

US Patent 4,013,810 to Long has been combined with the patent to Gnagy, et.al. and the patent to Chimiak to support the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claim 13.

Again, this rejection is respectfully traversed and its reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

The patent to Long discloses a sandwich construction consisting of a core formed from a thermoplastic resin and glass spheres and thermoplastic resin face sheets (Col. 2, ll. 50-54). The face sheets are placed over the foam core under pressure and at a temperature of about 600 degrees F to bond the core to the face sheets (Col. 3, ll. 54-57).

The patent to Long is submitted to have nothing whatsoever to do with applicant's claimed method of producing honeycomb articles having complex, contoured shapes. For example, the patent to Long does not employ a honeycomb core and uses significantly high temperatures, not ambient temperature. As with the patent to Chimiak, it is submitted that the patent to long does not cure any of the above noted deficiencies regarding the Gnagy, et.al. patent.

It is appreciated that the secondary references of Chimiak and Long have been applied toward supporting the rejection of dependent claims as has the primary reference to Gnagy, et.al. It is submitted, however, that even if one or more features of applicant's claimed method recited in the dependent claims were, in fact, disclosed or suggested by one or more of these references, it would not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference to Gnagy, et.al. as applied to applicant's main, independent claims 1 and 6.

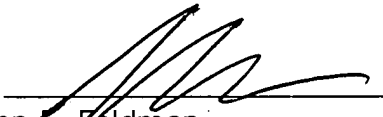
In view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the abstract and the informalities in the specification have been overcome; claims 4, 5, 15 and 16 have been clarified as requested; and, that applicant's independent claims 1 and 6 have been clearly and patentably distinguished from the primary reference to Gnagy, et.al. Accordingly, it is further respectfully submitted that with a finding of allowability of independent claims 1 and 6

the dependent claims should also be found allowable as they further limit applicant's claimed invention recited in the independent claims. Entry of this amendment, favorable reconsideration of this case and passing the claims herein to an early issue are, therefor, respectfully solicited.

Please charge any required fees to Debit Account No. 06-0515

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that the correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231 on 2/21/00

